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THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION MAGAZINE.

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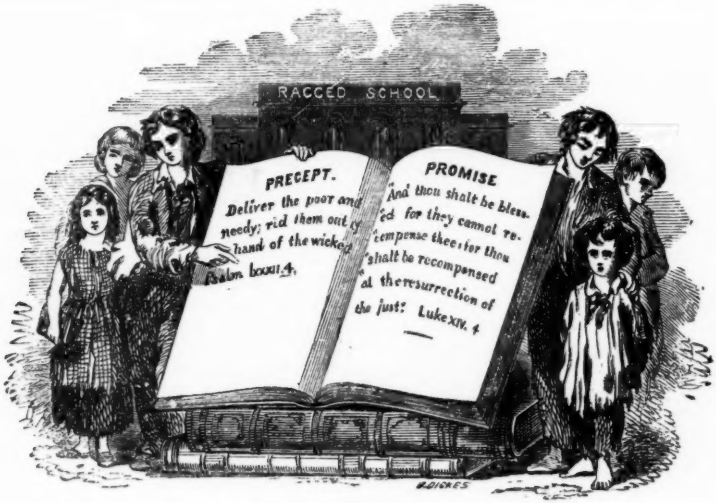
RAGGED SCHOOL
PRECEPT.
Deliver the poor and needy; rid them out of hand of the wicked
Psalm lxxxii. 4.
PROMISE
And thou shalt be blessed for they cannot recompense thee for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just: Luke xiv. 4

"The word of the Lord endureth for ever."—1 Peter i. 25.

PROFITS DEVOTED TO RAGGED SCHOOLS.

LONDON:
KENT & CO., PATERNOSTER ROW.
JOHNSTONE AND HUNTER, EDINBURGH; ROBERTSON, DUBLIN; AND ALL BOOKSELLERS.

* * All Communications to be addressed to the Editor, 1, Exeter Hall, London.
* Orders for Advertisements to be sent to Robert K. Burt, Printer, Holborn Hill.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The Committee beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of a parcel of clothing and books from Mrs. Reade and Miss Drinkwater, for articles for fancy sale. We are requested by the Treasurer of the North Street and Cudworth Ragged Schools to say that he has received, per Mrs. Taylor and Miss Spackmam, from friends at Bradford, Melksham, and Holt, the sum of £10. 9s. 4½d.

Donations of old clothes, and books for forming Ragged School Libraries, will be thankfully received by the Secretary, Mr. JOSEPH G. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.

THE CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY.

THE Secretary of the Ragged School Union has received the following note from Lord Shaftesbury, and will be happy to receive contributions for carrying his lordship's benevolent desires into effect. The fund thus raised will be used in aiding those Schools only who are too poor otherwise to give their scholars a day's trip to green fields, and there supply them with a simple meal and as much fresh air and childish frolic as the time, weather, and funds will admit.

"24, Grosvenor Square, W.,
"July 15th, 1862.

"DEAR GENT,

"We must now make our annual effort in aid of the treats to the Ragged Schools. Every year gives us more experience of the physical and moral benefits of these recreations.

"Yours truly,
"SHAFTESBURY."

Contributions will be thankfully received by Mr. GENT, at 1, Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.

TO SUPERINTENDENTS AND TEACHERS OF SUNDAY AND RAGGED SCHOOLS.

The Committee of the BOOK SOCIETY for Promoting Religious Knowledge among the Poor, are prepared to offer to needy Schools, for a limited period, *a grant of Books or Tracts*, to any amount not exceeding *Three Pounds*, at HALF PRICE.

A Catalogue and Form of Application will be forwarded on receipt of a Stamp for Postage, by FREDERICK CLARKE, Manager, 19, Paternoster Row, London.

J. E. EAREE,

BREAKFAST AND TEA CONTRACTOR,

50, HACKNEY ROAD, NEAR SHOREDITCH CHURCH.

J. E. E. respectfully begs to inform the Clergy, Superintendents of Schools, and others who are in the practice of commemorating their Anniversaries, etc., by Public Breakfasts and Tea Meetings, that he has every requisite for such occasions, comprising Tables, Coppers, and China to any extent, in a superior style, at extremely moderate charges.

J. E. E. tenders his sincere thanks to those ladies and gentlemen who have hitherto favoured him with their kind patronage, and hopes by strict attention to ensure a continuance of the same; he also begs most respectfully to solicit the favour of their recommendation.

Rout Seats on Reasonable Terms. Vans, and every requisite for Excursion Parties, with the entire Management, taken by Contract.

COMMUNICATIONS BY POST IMMEDIATELY ATTENDED TO.

References are kindly permitted to be made to the Secretaries of the Ragged School Union and the Temperance League.

TALE OF THE "BLACK COUNTRY."

NOW PUBLISHING,

IN THE

LEISURE HOUR,

CONSISTING OF 31 CHAPTERS,

LEDESDALE GRANGE;

A TALE OF COAL-FIELDS AND CORN-FIELDS.

By the Author of "Sketches in the Black Country."

WEEKLY, ONE PENNY; MONTHLY PARTS, FIVEPENCE.

A LIFE'S SECRET;

A TALE OF THE METROPOLITAN BUILDING STRIKES.

By Mrs. WOOD, Author of "Danesbury House," &c.

MAY BE HAD COMPLETE IN FIVE PARTS FOR TWO SHILLINGS.

London: 56, Paternoster Row; and sold by all Booksellers.

London Female Preventive and Reformatory Institution.

Office, 200, Euston Road, near Euston Square, N.W.

PRESIDENT—REV. THOMAS DALE, CANON RESIDENTIARY OF ST. PAUL'S.

HOMES SUPPORTED BY THE INSTITUTION.

CENTRAL: 200, Euston Road, N.W.
NORTH: Cornwall Place, Holloway Rd., N.
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SOUTH: St. James Place, Old Kent Rd., S.E.

"YES, I WANT THE LORD JESUS CHRIST."

Wasting consumption had very nearly completed its fatal work in poor E. F., an inmate of one of the Homes of this Institution, on the 27th of June, 1862, when on an attendant asking her if she wanted anything she immediately answered, "Yes, I want the Lord Jesus Christ;" and that evening, just as the sun set, poor Lizzie's happy spirit entered into rest, in the full assurance of hope through faith in the atoning merits of the Lord Jesus Christ. What a mercy, though cut down as an opening flower, she was saved from many snares and many of life's troubles. What a glorious change she must have experienced in a moment, from the humiliation of death to the glory of the redeemed! But how was this all brought about? Her conversion may be traced up to the kindness of a Christian lady, who, seeing the wretchedness of her home, placed her in this Institution about two years ago. Her conduct was always good, but her mind was not strong. Some months since it was observed that her health was failing; good medical skill was obtained, but in vain; her days were numbered; and so she passed away to be her benefactor's crown of joy and rejoicing in that higher, holier, and better state above. Reader, have you ever tried to save one soul from ignorance, temptation, and sin? If not, be persuaded to try; for God says, "My word shall not return to me void," &c.—*Isaiah* lv. 11.

Subscriptions and donations in aid of this Institution will be thankfully received by

Messrs. BOSANQUET & Co., Bankers, 73, Lombard Street, E.C.
Mr. F. NICHOLLS, 14, Old Jewry Chambers, E.C.
Mr. E. W. THOMAS, Secretary, 200, Euston Road, Euston Square, N.W.

Remittances always acknowledged by return of post.

OGLE MEWS RAGGED SCHOOL,

Foley Street, St. Marylebone.

ERECTION OF THE NEW SCHOOLS.

SPECIAL APPEAL.

The Committee desire to inform the friends of Ragged Schools, that they have now accepted a Contract for the rebuilding of the School Premises. The work is now being proceeded with, and it is anticipated that the FOUNDATION STONE will be laid during August, particulars of which will be announced.

Further aid is earnestly solicited, and Contributions of any amount will be thankfully received by—

The Rev. E. R. EARDLEY-WILMOT, 10, Chandos Street, W.
Alderman Sir ROBERT WALTER CARDEN, 64, Wimpole Street, W.
Mr. J. G. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, W.C.

Papers, Original and Selected.

RAGGED SCHOOL FLOWER SHOWS.

"Not a tree,
A plant, a leaf, a blossom, but contains
A folio volume. We may read, and read,
And read again, and still find something new,
Something to please, and something to instruct,
E'en in the *humble weed*."

THE elastic character of the Ragged School movement has been one great cause of its success. It has never been stereotyped, but has taken form as suggestions were tried and experience gained. From the commencement it has felt its way; and each forward step secured became the starting-point for fresh advance. Seldom has it been needful to retrograde, and so lose ground once fairly occupied. "Onward" has been its motto for eighteen years, and there is reason to believe the time has not yet arrived when its aggressive progress will be stayed. That there is ground not yet occupied by Ragged Schools, and where they are much needed, is too patent to every careful observer of metropolitan life to need proof from us. Nor have all the schemes for realizing the largest amount of good in the least possible time, been discovered and applied; as is apparent from the constantly increasing appliances which, from time to time, it is our pleasing duty to record.

One of the latest of these is that of cultivating plants and flowers, under given regulations, by Ragged School scholars; and at a fixed time the whole to be gathered into a show, the plants tested, and prizes awarded. On making this statement, one almost hears the "Pooh poohs" of some of our suburban and country friends, who, being acquainted with the habits of the occupants of the dens of London as well as of the occupants of the beds of their own gardens, think, and think aloud, "The scheme is utopian." Yes, utopian it would be if such productions were to be placed side by side with those of the experienced florist. But all that is intended is to place the plant of one child by the side of that of another, both grown under similar circumstances and

in the same locality. A proper contrast thus becomes apparent by the care and attention bestowed on the one not given to the other. This difference is the basis upon which a few prizes are awarded by an impartial but skilful judge. By such a scheme it is hoped to increase the attractions of home, to furnish pleasant occupations, and to engender a love of flowers in the children of the very poor. The Ragged School teacher, in his visits to the homes of his scholars, occasionally sees traces of a love of plants and flowers in the Arab of the street and the denizen of the rookery. And sometimes that love finds vent in a way and under circumstances that excite his pity; for in the corner of a dirty yard he sees the mould—rather the rubbish—has been dug up, broken, and watered; some scarlet-runners have been put in, and some sticks stuck round, whether for effect or for protection from bipeds or quadrupeds, is not known. In course of time vegetable life, after hard struggles, appears on the surface, to the no small joy of the youthful owner, who forthwith ties a bit of string to the struggling plant almost tight enough to strangle out what little of life it has, and upon this it is expected to climb into maturity with scarlet blossoms and green pods. The child and plant, in circumstances, in treatment, and in difficulties, are very similar, and the wonder is that either should bear blossom or fruit. Such wonders, however, are wrought; but we have no more right to expect figs off thistles, or grapes from thorns, than we have a right to expect to reap where we have bestowed no labour. These are not the days of miracles, but of labour, of prayer, and of faith; and by these means, with God's blessing, alone may we expect "the wilderness and the solitary place to be made glad, and the desert to rejoice and blossom as the rose." This "botanical poetry" of Isaiah has a prophetic and spiritual meaning, and is the goal which the Ragged School teacher is striving to reach. To aid him in his noble object, he uses all the legitimate means a kind Providence has placed within his reach, and lays under tribute every power he can command. He attempts to perform no miracle, but works and waits, looking to a higher power than his own for the blessing needful to give completeness to his work.

Now, what the teacher desires in this new effort—for though old enough elsewhere, it is new in its relation to Ragged Schools—is to lay hold of this love of plants and flowers, and use it as a fulcrum on which to rest his moral lever for helping to raise the child out of that degradation in which he finds him. The love of

flowers is inherent in the human family ; and may we not conclude that God planted it there while man was yet in Eden ? where

> "Spring robed the vales. With what a flood of light
> She held her revels in that sunny clime,
> The flower-sown turf, like bossy velvet bright,
> The blossomed trees exulting in their prime!"

Sin sent forth its blighting blast o'er that Eden scene, and man was driven forth to cultivate the earth "in the sweat of his brow," but the love of flowers has survived the loss of Eden and the downfall of man. The Christian teacher knows, and teaches what he knows, that the love of Christ, and not the love of flowers—

> "Can raise the ruins of our race
> To life and God again."

Yet he feels justified, as a step in the right direction, to cultivate the lesser love.

As an experiment, the Committee and teachers of Fitzroy Market Ragged School agreed to hold a Flower Show, in their own school-room, in the month of June, notice of which was given to all the scholars of their intention, and in good time, to allow of wholesome competition, for bringing forward a fair supply of plants of their own culture, though perhaps not of their own rearing. This, perhaps, was as much as could be done on the first occasion. Notices were also drawn up, printed, and distributed through the school's locality to the following effect :—

1.—All Plants intended for exhibition must be registered six weeks before the day of the Show by the Honorary Secretary, who will be in attendance at the School-room to receive applications for space, from the 13th to the 16th of May, between the hours of 4 and 6, and on Saturday, 17th May, between the hours of 4 and 8.

2.—A special stand will be provided for those ladies or gentlemen who, having reared Plants, will kindly send them for exhibition, or permit them to be sold on the day of the Show, for the benefit of the School.

3.—All Plants to be exhibited should be delivered at the School between the hours of 7 and 9 on the morning of the 25th June; but no Plant can on any account be admitted after 10 o'clock a.m.

On the 13th of May, the Secretary commenced his work of registration by recording full particulars of the plant in his book, and numbering and marking each pot. To avoid tricks and deception, the exhibitors were informed that if after registration they repotted or otherwise tampered with the plant, they would not be allowed to exhibit at the Show; also that the plant must be accessible for the inspection of the Visiting Committee, who would

have to see it from time to time between the periods of registration and exhibition. On the five days of entry there were registered—

15 pots of Red Geranium.
46 „ Fancy „
5 „ Nettle „
28 „ Musk.
15 „ Fuchsia.
6 „ Daisies.
2 „ Sweetwilliam.
2 „ Mignionette (raised from seed).
4 „ Southernwood.
2 „ Pinks.
5 „ Heartsease.
3 „ Calceolaria.
3 „ Cineraria.
3 „ Double Stocks.
2 „ Cactus (blue).
1 „ Nasturtium.
1 „ Agapanthus.
1 „ Verbena.
1 „ Creeping Jennie.
1 Apple-tree raised from a pip.

Making a total of 146 plants; and, in addition, 20 samples of wild flowers and grasses the children had gathered and arranged into bouquets—a few of which were in pots filled with wet sand.

The whole of the plants, before they were allowed to be placed in position at the Show, passed under the scrutiny of W. Sowerby, Esq., of the Royal Botanic Society, and upon whom fell the duty to decide upon the relative merits of the plants, and to award the prizes. His cultivated eye soon detected a dozen plants that had, in one way or another, become disqualified for exhibition, and were put aside; not, however, till the owners of each had been sent for, questioned, and shown that what they had done was known, and could be proved to them. They acknowledged that what Mr. Sowerby said was true, and wondered who could have told him. He explained that nobody but the plant itself gave him a single idea of what had been done. Each plant told its own tale, and they ought not to find fault with their plants for truth-telling: the fault was in themselves, for not being candid, and letting the Secretary know of the accidents, &c., that had happened which had disqualified them from becoming exhibitors.

The Committee published a list of the prizes they intended to give; and the following are the awards made by Mr. Sowerby:—

PRIZES.

FIRST CLASS.

(To Children of the School only.)

									s.	d.
For Red Geraniums	1 at 3s.	...	1 at 2s.	...	3 at 6d.	total	6	6
Fuchsias	1 „ 3s.	...	1 „ 2s.	...	1 „ 6d.	...	5	6
Musk	1 „ 3s.	...	1 „ 2s.	...	3 „ 6d.	...	6	6

SECOND CLASS.

(To the poor Adults of the District only.)

									s.	d.
For Red Geraniums...	1 at 5s.	...	1 at 2s. 6d.	...	1 at 1s.	...	8	6
Fuchsias	1 „ 5s.	...	1 „ 2s. 6d.	...	1 „ 1s.	...	8	6
Musk	1 „ 3s.	...	1 „ 2s. 0d.	...	1 „ 1s.	...	6	0

THIRD CLASS.

(To either of the above, or to those living out of the District.)

	s.	d.
For a Collection of Three Plants; viz., Geranium, Fuchsia, and Musk or Mignionette	5	0

FOURTH CLASS.

(To either of the above, or to those living out of the District.)

							s.	d.
For a Collection of Cut Wild Flowers, showing the greatest variety and best arrangement	2s.	...	1s.	...	6d.	...	3	6

FIFTH CLASS.

							s.	d.
Three Extra Prizes, open to all, for Plants of any description not mentioned above	10s.	...	7s.	...	3s.	...	20	0
Children's Extra Class—3 at 1s. each							3	0
							£3	13	0

The prizes of the fifth class were offered by a friend of the school, and were given, the highest for an agapanthus, and the lowest for a young apple-tree grown from a pip, both of which created considerable interest in the room.

The prizes were distributed in the school-room on June 25th, by the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G.

The admission was by tickets, at prices varying, according to time, from ½d. to 6d. After 7 p.m., the admission was free. About 1,000 persons visited the show during the day. The receipts were sufficient to pay prizes and all expenses, and leave a balance of 19s. 6d.

We sincerely hope our friends, in both town and country, will carefully consider the subject of Flower Shows in Ragged Schools, with a view to their more general adoption.

ANOTHER OF LIFE'S BYE-WAYS, AND WHAT I FOUND THERE.

(*Continued from page* 156.)

"In they burst. 'How goes it, Footy [the name he often used for father], to-day; and, madam, how are you? and Zucci, I hope I see you well. No; you all look as if you had Calcraft's ribbon round your necks.' Such were the first words that fell from the lips of our gentleman visitor: a little spare man; his eyes grey and glancing, they seemed to follow you everywhere. He could speak with them, laugh with them till they faded into two dark strips, rule man and beast with them, do everything with them but weep; that he could not do; that he never did. In his whole flesh moisture there was none: it was as yellow and as dry as that of a mummy from Egypt. His lips were thin and pale; his hair hung in long ringlets, dark and oily, all round his head; his brow was furrowed with lines, and across these ran a vein or two, swollen and blue; he had no beard, and was a little below the middle size.

"'Why look so sad, Footy? that little scrap of humanity will be all right with me. You have got a fine field before you once more: no count, no care, but simply to look after the old merchant's idiot son. Walk him well, and he'll sleep; feed him well, and he'll love you; thump him well, and he'll obey you. Why, man, cheer up and look out. Pitch overboard all your soft goods, such as love and fear—the whole nest of affections—make a clean breast of them. I have murdered these innocents long ago, and looking to number one, have cried before all men, Gain, be my Lord; for I will worship thee! Be a man, old chap, and go ahead. Aint these the counsels for Footy, mother? Have they not made your little evil seed all he is?' Here he looked up into the old lady's face, looking for her nod, conscious of having said something that would have graced the lips of Solomon.

"'Yes, child; your own good parts and my training have have done it, and your present position proves it has been well done.'

"His mother was a woman between fifty and sixty, short and stout, red and puffy of countenance, with a large forehead surmounted with fine dark hair, here and there dashed with grey; from under protruding eyebrows stared out upon you two eyes, dark as sloes, that seemed to understand everything that came before them by reading it, and when read, to know exactly what it was worth, and when, and where, and how to use it in fighting her way through life. When roused by anger, her eyes seemed to blaze, which, when added to the natural radiance of her face and the bitter sayings of her tongue, made her at such seasons an object to be dreaded. In her sunny moments it was a task to love her. When she laughed, her chin and cheeks dimpled. In conversation her whole person was called to the work, winking with either eye, raising her whole face to heaven. At times the conversation would leave her lips, and take refuge among her fingers and feet. A story told by her somehow stuck to you. She could swear, and did do it; she knew her Bible, and often quoted it; she loved drink, and nicknamed it the 'skyey influence.' Often, sir, at all the hours on the face of the clock,

have I had to trudge the lanes of London to procure her this abominable 'influence.'

"Turning to her son she said, 'While arranging matters, let Zucci bring us in a drop of "skyey:" it will oil all the wheels, and everything will move without noise to its place.' I was accordingly dispatched for her precious 'influence.' When I returned the conversation was changed, but I could see by my parents they had been doing something which their poverty more than their wills rendered necessary. Yes, sir, I was handed over on that day to be trained for the stage as a dancer by one of those desperate characters that are adored behind the curtains of our second-rate theatres. On that day for a dreary season I was also to have a change of a mother, and my new mother was one of the most remarkable women for cunning, coarseness, and ability I have ever seen. If living with a person photographs their likeness on the heart, I am sure I have one of the grimest female miniatures there ever worn by a man; and there, sir, I fear it will remain all my stay here below, aye, even up to the very judgment. Oh, sir, I can see her now as Macbeth saw the ghost, in all places and among all kinds of people. Yes, sir, while talking to you I see her in some of her scenes in her dingy house, and even now they sadden my heart. At last the party broke up. He and his mother were the worse for the 'skyey influence,' and, judging by their talk, they were under another influence that did not come from the skies. As he passed me he chucked me under the chin, and slipped a shilling into my hand, saying, 'Now, my boy, I'll make a gentleman of you. I'll call for him to-morrow evening in a cab, and drop him at mother's on my way to the theatre.' So saying, he left the house; and now, sir, was opened the darkest chapter in my life; but it's all for the best.

"Father and mother had been so far successful as each to get a situation in very respectable families. My father was to be the keeper of an idiot lad, the son of a merchant: my mother was to assist in the nursery of a lady of rank. Our respective homes were to be wide apart. Father was to be in the extreme south-west of London, mother far toward the north-west, and I was to be buried in a lane in the south-east. Each was to be separated from the other by miles on the morrow, to rejoice or to sorrow apart. The day before the break-up we spent together: silence, sadness, and tenderness was the rule of the house for that day. Had the tenderness of that day been spread over the bygone years of our family life, separation would never have darkened our door. I received a great many instructions as to my conduct towards my superiors, and both parents painted a very bright future for me. But, sir, our domestic dream was scattered by the loud rattle of the door-knocker. The little actor was there, all in a bustle, not a moment to spare. After a shower of kisses and many tender embraces from my parents, all of a tremble I found myself and my little bundle at the foot of the stairs, and bathed in tears I buried myself in a corner of the cab. After some whispers between my parents and Murray (the actor's name), the cab started, and I was launched into the world. During the ride he tried to comfort me; but finding it useless, he gave it over. Looking up once or twice through my tears, I could see his little grey eye rolling and staring wildly at the roof of the cab, his lips muttering great swelling words, and his hands and feet placed as if he was in a struggle or an agony. This increased my terror, and

led me to believe I was in the power of a man run stark mad. He was not mad; this was simply his mode of rehearsal; I was soon accustomed to it. My eye also discovered two old swords, two or three masks, and some black and yellow robes glittering with spangles, in another corner of the cab. The conduct of Murray during the journey, the questionable instruments, the grim countenances of the masks, and the spangled dresses, all made such a dreary impression on my mind, which, added to my own sorrow, made me crouch myself up into a corner, and in childlike resignation await the issue. After turning down a long narrow lane, crooked, dark, and dirty, just immediately before a dingy arch, the cab pulled up opposite a low mud-spattered door, which immediately opened, and on its step stood Mrs. Murray, puffy and red, dimpled and terrible, as when I first saw her. As he handed me over to her he said, 'Here he is, a regular sponge, full of crystal waters; a bottle of tears. He and the blue bottle of "skyey" together, will make grog to both of us for a week. All right, cabby. One o'clock, mother.' Away he rolled, and the door closed on the old lady and me.

"I looked up in her face, then all around me. I found myself standing in a large room, covered with a crimson carpet, and lighted by a gas pendant from the centre of the ceiling; a brisk fire burned on the hearth, and a huge black cat lay dozing before it on the rug. Masks and fiddles, robes and swords sparkling with spangles, hung on the walls. A little table, hung with blue, stood in the centre of the room. It and a few chairs completed the furniture of the apartment. I sat down on a little chair near the fire, and having dried up my tears, I was silent and somewhat sullen.

"'Well, Zucci, I hope you will like your new home—won't you? I am now to be father and mother to you, all in one;' and, so saying, she drew me to her and asked me to kiss her and prove a loving son, as her own dear little Murray had done for years. I drew back; I could not help it. I would sooner have kissed the old black cat at my foot: her big red face and sharp eyes looked so queer, so stupid, when she tried to be loving—to her such a feeling was not natural.

"'You little dainty-livered milksop, you refuse me a kiss, do you? Indeed; what next! The little fellows up the court sell their soft wares cheaper. See how they hold up their little lips with delight; and sweet are their kisses, too—each mouth just like a split cherry, wet with heaven's own dew.'

"'Ah, but, Mrs. Murray, it's not so new to them as to me; their fathers and mothers kiss them all the day long: I have no parents, and strangers never kiss me.'

"'Do you think me a stranger? I have been no stranger to your father and mother, at any rate, you little dainty chops. Come, kiss me this moment, and be friendly.'

"This she said in such a tone, and with such a stare, as made me tremble. I crawled towards her, and presented my cheek, which she kissed, muttering, as she did it, 'Aye, refuse affection to her who has kept your parents from the union, and yourself from the streets!' My obedience seemed to melt her. An icicle dropped into the fire could not have melted sooner. The first hour I lived with her she made me feel her will was of iron, and that the word of her mouth was a law. If obedient to her desires, she could be soft—even tender—but if you differed from her, the words of her lips rattled about your

ears like flint and steel. I never forgot this first hour's teaching: it was one of those blows in a fight which is half the battle. I carried this first night's lesson with me through all my after-career under her roof.

"After painting in bright colours my future, and compelling me to devour a little supper—more from fear than appetite—I was lighted up-stairs to a little garret containing a chair, a table, a mirror, a wash-hand-stand, and a little iron bedstead with a yard of carpet before it. I was told it was to be my bed-room.

"'Now strip,' she said, 'and I'll take your candle away.' I stood for a moment, as if hesitating. She gave me one of those stares which all who were in her power well understood. I said, 'You may take the light away; I'll slip to bed in the dark: to that I have been accustomed.'

"'What are you to be up to, eh?' she asked.

"'Nothing,' I simply replied: 'I would like to say my prayers before lying down, that's all, Mrs. Murray.'

"'Oh, that's all, is it—some of your Sunday School manners—ha, ha, ha! Aye, just as Murray said, there must be a soft spot about you, and I suppose it's from that quarter you fill your eyes with tears. That's all past now. In a short time you'll be a man, and must leave all these nursery tricks to those little fellows that are washed and combed at certain hours, and drummed to school on Saturdays and Sundays with cakes and kisses. In a day or two you will have to appear before hundreds, dressed in a spangled robe, to dance and sing for your supper. Come, begin at once to be a man, and tumble into bed without nursery rhymes or playing games at folding hands. These are baby tricks.' She prevailed, and I was laughed out of my prayers. I got into bed, was left in the dark, where, after tossing about awhile, crying and praying at intervals, I fell asleep.

"Such was my first night away from home on my own account. Stifling prayer was my first lesson for the stage. And let them who long for it remember, a prayerless heart is a prime qualification for the boards—the first act in the tragedy of a player's life."

(To be continued.)

THE GROTTO AND ITS INMATES.

In our Volume for 1858 (p. 48) we gave a sketch of the Grotto Passage Refuge, whereby it appeared that, instituted in 1849, it was one of the first Refuges established in London. Since that time it has not lagged behind in the many efforts which are now making throughout London for the temporal and spiritual reclamation of the waifs and strays of society, but is rather pursuing its twofold labour, preventive and reformatory, if with the ripened experience of age, with all the ardour of youth.

Since our former sketch was published, the School and Refuge has been rebuilt, and it may now be considered the very reverse of what it was before; viz., a model school both for space, light, and ventilation. Not unfrequently we have found that with fine buildings a class above the ragged

has been attracted, and thus, in another but not less true sense, the old adage has been found true, "Fine feathers make [or *attract*] fine birds." We are happy to find, however, that this is not the case at Grotto Passage School, but that the wretched tenants of the immediate district still find there a home and as hearty a welcome as they found seventeen years ago. Long may it continue as a moral Pharos, guiding the depraved and the destitute to the City of Light, where there are neither ragged homes nor ragged hearts, and where all will sing of free grace for evermore.

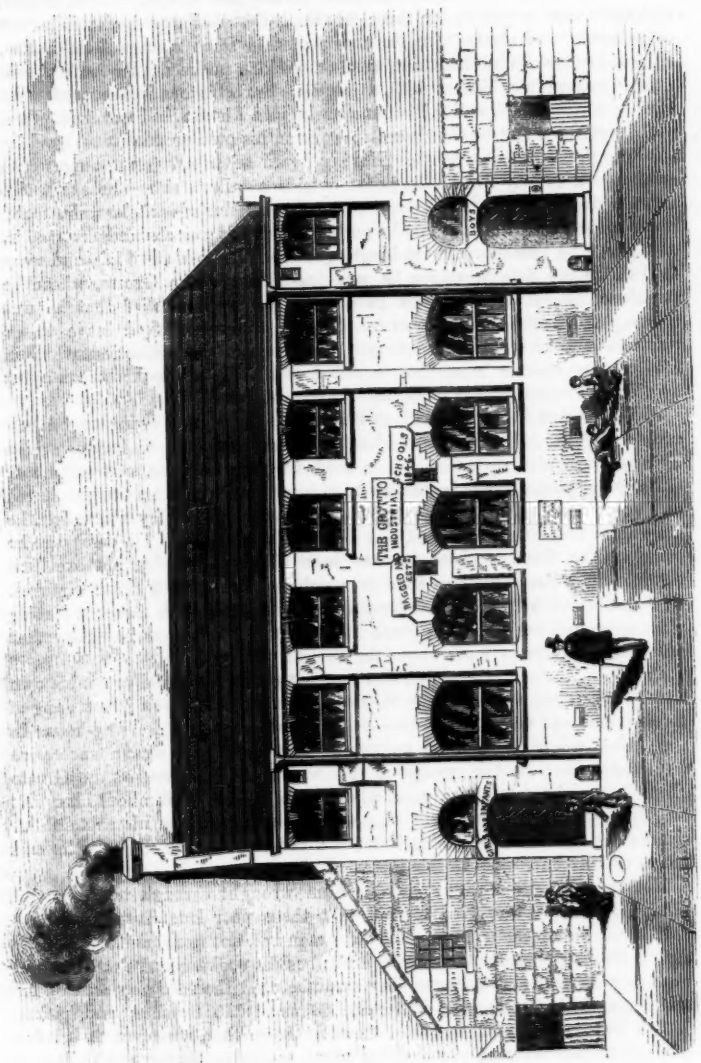
The institution is still divisible into two sections; the one being preventive and the other reformatory. Of the first, or the school department, it may be intimated that in the Girls', Boys', and Infants' school-rooms, between 200 and 300 are daily taught by two sisters, whose loving care of those committed to their charge, amid much to out-weary and try their zeal, has now for five years won the esteem of all connected with the schools. These rooms are likewise used for Sunday Schools, Penny Bank, and Mothers' Meetings, which are attended by from thirty to forty poor women; and during last winter, soup was daily sold at a cheap rate to the neighbouring poor, and the children were furnished twice a week with soup free.

The following will give our readers some idea of the present social and moral aspect of the Refuge, indicating not only the class admitted, but the good accruing through that Divine blessing which has never yet been withheld from hearty and prayerful labour.

It appears that the increased size of the Refuge has not only enabled the Committee to add to the number of boys in the Refuge, but has also helped the efficient Superintendent to carry out a more complete system of discipline than was formerly possible.

Nor has the labour been without rich fruitage. For in many cases there has been witnessed an entire reformation in characters that have entered the Refuge hardened and almost desperate; but becoming gradually influenced by the truths instilled, and softened by the love displayed, they have left it with their whole being changed, and are now started in life with high principles implanted, and with bright hopes of leading happy and useful lives. Subjoined are three cases which indicate the terrible temptations which assail a large class from their tenderest years, and the change which has in these cases been lastingly made.

A. B.'s father died when he was a baby. His mother was married again to a drunkard, who used him shamefully, and finally turned him out of doors when he was only twelve years old. He was driven to the company of bad boys, who made him steal some wood, for which he was locked up for twenty-one days. On coming out, having no home, he slept about on door-steps, and was again driven to the company of thieves. His mates being found one day up a scaffold for the repair of Covent Garden Church, were seized by policemen on suspicion of intending to steal the clock hands (!) He was indignant, and throwing a vegetable marrow at the policemen, was remanded for a week. He then tried to get a living by helping a coster-monger pull his barrow; but being almost starving, he joined a set of *guns* (*alias*, high-class thieves), stole some bacon, and was sent to prison for three months. On his discharge, with four other lads he went out that night to see what he could steal. His companions got hold of an old gentleman, stole


THE GROTTO
OLLAPODRIDA
THE GROTTO

his silver snuff-box and handkerchief, and passed them to him: he was caught, and again sent to prison for three months. On discharge he found his old companions, and started for Sevenoaks; stole some clothes from a line, returned to town, sold them, and went out picking pockets. He found an old mate; started for Barnet with a jemmy; broke into a house, and came back to London. Next day his mate broke into a house and got four years' penal servitude, and he then went to work on his own account, and lived by stealing pocket-handkerchiefs. Having heard of a *gift* (something worth stealing)—a twenty-five shilling coat outside a tailor's shop—he spent two hours trying to get it; for, being buttoned on a tailor's block, he unbuttoned it one button each time; at last he pulled it, found it was chained, dropped it, and got off by running. He at length got tired of this kind of life, and went to Field Lane School, where he was passed on to the Grotto, where he remained several months, and gave every reason for belief that he was a completely reclaimed character. Several times he asked leave to go and seek out old mates, to try to get them to enter the institution, which in two or three cases he succeeded in doing, and he is now looked upon by us as a kind of missionary to desperate characters.

J. D——, cast into the world at ten years old to get a living as he best could. This he did by struggling hard in a variety of ways, till he was driven by hunger to pick up a turnip in a field, for which he was sent to prison. On leaving prison sixpence was given to him, with which he bought starch and scent, and made up penny packets of scent. Urged by starvation, he stole some bread and meat, and was sent to Maidstone jail. On discharge he came to the Grotto, where he has been distinguished by his excellent conduct and the earnest manner in which he has studied the Scriptures. Truly reformed, he has just left for sea; and being allowed to choose a parting gift, he begged for "The Scripture Text Book," in order, as he said, "that he might get to know more about the Bible."

C. D——, the son of a nailer, was sent out at ten years old to get his own living; taken in by pickpockets, they sent him to the Mint to join a gang of thieves, and was taken to ————, a notorious thieves' lodging-house in the Mint, where he became an expert thief, and had eleven successive imprisonments. At last, weary of this way of life, he sought the Grotto Home, where he remained a year, winning the esteem of all about him. At length he was sent to sea, and won a high character from his captain. A short time ago he wrote a nice letter to a lady, asking for more books and tracts to distribute amongst his mates.

Not only has there been moral reform wrought through teaching and discipline, but we are glad to find that these poor lads have practically recognised the apostolic truth, that "if a man will not work, neither shall he eat." Hence it appears that during 1861, besides cooking and cleansing, and repairing of clothes and boots, they manufactured the following articles for sale; viz., 174,979 bundles of wood, 163 mats, 710 brushes, and picked 18,372 lbs. of horsehair. It would therefore seem that, whatever their antecedents, or their varying physical and moral aptitudes, they are not idlers in the great workshop of the world. It is also satisfactory to find that towards a total sum of £985, incurred in 1860 for School and Refuge expenses, they contributed £277 14*s.* 10*d.* by their labour. As few inmates continue in this

institution above one year, it appears that £14 suffices for the social reclamation of those who before might have been classed as moral plagues, disseminating, as they did, evil far and wide. Who then will say, after inspecting these facts and these statistics, that Christian kindness, accompanied by the Divine benediction, is not equal to the cure of *all* the social evils of the age? If any reader still doubts, let him try the experiment and record the result.

A charge is often made against the poor that they are ungrateful to their benefactors. That sometimes this charge is too well founded, who that knows the human heart, with its deep ingratitude to the God who made and preserves it, can doubt? Ingratitude, then, is a sin of man, rather than of any special class. Yet, alas! in too many cases there has not been any manifestation of that kindness on the part of superiors to the depraved or destitute which can alone evoke the feeling of gratitude. In the words of a poor lad, "Ungrateful, indeed! pray who was ever kind to me?" The inmates of the Grotto, however, are not, as a rule, chargeable with this sin. We have watched the career of many with whose prior history we were well acquainted; and many a kind look and many a kinder word have we had from the coarsest, not because we emptied our purse, but because we simply gave that sympathy to which all, especially the forlorn and the downcast—children as we are of the same great Father—have a claim. Would our readers like to see a specimen of the feelings evoked by Christian kindness? Then the following letter will supply an illustration, not only of good effected, but of the abiding gratitude developed.

"Dear Lady,—You must excuse me not answering your letter before, but I have been waiting to see R—— H—— before I wrote. I have now been working since last June along with a stonemason, plasterer, and bricklayer, and am getting along well at this trade. I have now two years to stop with him, and then I shall, if I am living and well, start on my own account. I have 120 dollars for the three years, board and clothes. I hope to hear by the time I hear again from England that the Grotto has grown into a substantial building; for it will be much better for the boys when Mr. C—— resides there to look after the welfare of the school at all times. I was delighted to hear that some of the boys had begun to feel the importance of Christian truth; for they will find no real happiness in this world without attending to religious duties and reading their Bible with prayer; with prayer to God to enable them to understand what they read. I hope that they will continue to pursue through life the road that leads to everlasting happiness, and that they may not only be professors, but teachers of the Gospel, carrying the name of Jesus into whatever land they may go to, that it may be said of them, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth the peace." I have heard of the great revivals in many parts of Europe. I hope that they may extend to all parts of the world, that all nations may hear the Gospel preached in their own language. I think that a great many more people in Peterboro' are beginning to feel the power of the Holy Spirit. We have our union prayer meetings, which are held alternately in each church. I regularly attend the Presbyterian Church, under the pastoral care of the Rev. John Rogers, of which church I hope to become a member. I have felt great comfort in

reading the Bible, I hope not without benefit to my own self. I would like to join others in private praise and prayer to God; but though I have no doubt there are a good many Christian people in this part, yet there is a great deal of pride among them. I hope and trust that the time will come when this great barrier of pride will be broken down, and that all will unite together to praise God, without any distinction of sect, or any division among them. I have joined the Good Templars' Temperance Society, of which we have a great many members in Canada. I did not get the books you kindly sent for me, of which I was very much disappointed, nor have I heard anything of the boys that came out. Give my respects to all the members of the Committee, and the ladies and gentlemen connected with the school. Tender them my thanks for the kind interest they took in my welfare, both spiritual and temporal, while in the school. My love to all the boys. Tell them I hope that they will all try to follow the good example that is set before them; that they will be attentive to their work, and try and do all they can to work the school up in the estimation of the visitors to it, and be attentive to the ladies and gentlemen that kindly come to teach them; and I hope to hear that they will prosper, both in things that appertain to the world to come, where all is joy and peace. I must now conclude with kind love to yourself and all; and if it should not be the will of God for us to meet again in this world, I hope we shall all meet again in that happy country where our best friends, our kindred, dwell, where God our Saviour reigns.

"I remain, yours truly,
"JAMES E——."

The Master possesses a large number of photographs of former inmates. They were mostly presented by these lads as proofs of their gratitude on their entering the Royal Navy, or on emigration. In those cases in which likenesses had been presented at different times, we could not help remarking how the sullen and suspicious look had been supplanted by a bright, ingenuous expression: nay, the very conformation of the forehead had changed, since, instead of being low and retreating as formerly, it had become straighter and loftier. As the Master related various episodes in their histories, some of which would be considered gross exaggerations were they related by Dickens, the dictum of Byron was forcibly recalled, "Truth is strange, stranger than fiction."

When we remember what this institution has done, and learn what it is still doing, we cannot but trace the finger of God both in its origination, its machinery, and its fruitage. Its history proves amply that where prayer precedes, accompanies, and follows spiritual labour, the Divine sanction will not be absent. Franklin's kite flew high one memorable day, but it was not till the key attached to the string was presented to the electric cloud that the lightning was attracted earthwards. So say we, Work we may, like Saul, but unless we also pray like David, the Divine blessing will not be attracted. Nor need we fear asking large spiritual blessings for our beloved schools; for in prayer we speak to One whose heart is far larger than our largest desires. For no one can possibly ever feel the same amount of compassion for perishing souls as He who, that heaven might be filled,

spared not the Son of his love. Said one to whom Cæsar gave a large reward, "This is too great for me to receive;" but said Cæsar in reply, "It is not too great a gift for me to bestow." Hence we ask our readers ever to remember this and every kindred institution in the only potent way; or, in more familiar phrase, we would earnestly say,—"Please remember the Grotto."

THE SOCIETY'S SCHOOL AGENT IN THE EAST AND NORTH OF LONDON.

In our March Number, page 64, we gave extracts from the Report of the School Agent in the West and South of London, and now furnish extracts from the Report of Mr. Curtis, the Agent employed in the East and North of London. This is the first Report made by that gentleman, as he received his appointment towards the close of 1860.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NORTHERN AND EASTERN DISTRICTS.

Gentlemen,—I beg to present the first Annual Report of my labours in the Northern and Eastern Ragged Schools.

The number of Schools and Refuges comprised within the North and East Districts of London are—

Schools 78
Refuges 7

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

In the North and East there are 73 Sunday Schools, leaving 5 institutions without Sunday Schools. Of these Sunday Schools 39 meet in the morning, 59 in the afternoon, and 39 in the evening.

The following is about the attendance:—Mornings, 2,000; afternoons, 7,000; evenings, 6,000. Number of teachers about 1,500; average attendance about 1,000.

The bulk of the Day School children attend the Sabbath School.

The discipline of the schools is upon the whole very good. Exceptional cases of outrage will at times occur in the Sunday Evening Schools, arising chiefly from feebleness of superintendence.

The classes are frequently too large, which militates against order and effective teaching. The mere teaching of reading I regard as a serious waste of time, seeing so many opportunities present themselves in the week for acquiring this knowledge.

DAY SCHOOLS.

In the East there are 29 and in the North 34 Day Schools.

As some institutions include several schools, the statement in detail is as follows:—14 Boys', 10 Girls', 63 Mixed and Infants; total, 87 schools. The daily average attendance is about 9,000; total weekly attendance about 11,000.

My attention has been particularly directed to the class admitted. To this end, besides my own observation, I seek to know from the teachers what steps are taken to ensure the admission of only the right class. In many cases the children are not admitted till the homes have been visited. In others the admissions are made only by one or two members of the Committee. In several cases the recommendation of a City Missionary or Curate of the district is required to ensure admission.

It is very desirable that the admission-books, whether kept by the teacher or Committee, should contain a formal statement of the reasons for the admission of such and such children. I have pressed both on Committees and teachers the importance also of keeping a daily register of attendance. It is highly important to the teachers, as affording to them, in many instances, a justification which can be produced to rebut complaints from the Committees or parents of the non-progress of certain children. Daily registers, at my instance, have been adopted in some schools, and several others promised to introduce them at the beginning of the year. Batches of children, whose tidy and neat appearance gave rise to suspicion, have from time to time been the subject of searching investigation. In the majority of instances the suspicions have proved to be unfounded. About a dozen proved to be unsuitable in the Day and thirty in the Evening, and were accordingly removed.

SCHOOL MATERIALS.

The schools under my supervision were found by me to be, in many instances, most inadequately supplied with school materials. As the progress of the children is impossible under such circumstances, I have directed especial attention to the matter, and am glad to state that in many instances my exertions have been attended with satisfactory results.

READING.

Upwards of 1,500 children have been examined as to their ability in this most essential art. Very few of that number can be pronounced fluent or intelligent readers; to speak roughly, about one in twenty of the gross attendance. I have felt it to be my duty to urge upon the teachers the paramount obligation of attending to the matter of reading, as it is upon the children's ability to read that the preservation of the religious knowledge imparted to a great extent depends.

RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE.

I am happy to bear my testimony to the religious spirit pervading all the schools in the East and North, and to the very great desire among all the teachers to convey religious knowledge to the minds of the children.

The practice of selecting a daily text appears to be most admirable, as, where well selected and treasured up in the memory from day to day, they at length constitute a storehouse of Divine truth, to serve "for correction, for reproof, and for instruction in righteousness."

I have pointed out to the teachers the importance of having a plan in

treating of the historical portions; also, not to be too minute, but to seize hold of the great features of a period and the most salient points of a character; above all, to guard against the mere impartation of dry facts, and amidst the numerous lessons to be drawn, to seize hold of the one or more towering in importance. In giving a connected account, the links of the chain of events should be very large, so as to ensure a connected view without too great a burden on the memory.

NOTATION,

which, as high as thousands, it is very desirable all the children should be able to perform, and which is also an excellent mental discipline, is in one or two instances well taught, in a great many instances imperfectly taught, in some instances, I fear, not taught at all.

READING, WRITING, AND ARITHMETIC,

are the staple branches of instruction for our schools: any other information, historical, geographical, or matters pertaining to daily life, should be taught incidentally, not elevated into a distinct branch of teaching. For our schools it looks too pretentious, and exposes to misconception, if not to ridicule.

NIGHT SCHOOLS.

In the East there are 18 Boys', 17 Girls', and 16 Mixed Schools; in the North, 14 Boys', 18 Girls', and 4 Mixed Schools; making a total of 87 schools.

The nightly average of scholars is about 4,500. 25 of these schools are conducted by paid teachers, who are assisted by voluntary teachers. 18 schools are entirely conducted by voluntary teachers.

I have directed particular attention to the class of children attending the Night School, taking care that they be confined, as strictly as possible, to children not attending any Day School.

I have sometimes thought that the time of meeting has been regulated with a greater regard to the teachers' convenience than to the welfare of the scholars. In such instances, either through the Committee or the teacher, I have obtained an alteration of the hour.

I have used my influence to secure the co-operation of voluntary with the paid teachers in the conduct of our Evening Schools. The teaching, in such circumstances, is, as a rule, more effective, and the tone of the teaching more decidedly religious. Where the teacher is alone, his time, unless he be a first-rate disciplinarian, is chiefly taken up in maintaining order.

REFUGES.

There are 7 Refuges—5 in the North, and 2 in the East; 5 being for Boys, number of inmates, 260; and 2 for Girls, number of inmates, 80.

INDUSTRIAL.

There are some 45 Industrial Classes in connection with the schools in the North and East, numbering in all about 1,600.

SANITARY.

I have directed particular attention to the matters of Ventilation, Drainage, &c., during the past year, and am happy to state that by removals to other buildings, or alteration of existing ones, the conditions of health have been greatly improved.

CONCLUSION.

My presence has been heartily welcomed at the local meetings. I have been gratified by witnessing an amount of faith and love conjointly working, which evidences the presence of Him who said in his day to the representatives of the universal Church, "Lo! I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." The work in which you are engaged is a Christ-like work. You have the warrant of the Master for expecting successful results from your labours. The past year has not been barren of results: may the coming year be still more successful. "Prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it." "As thy faith is, so be it unto thee." In the spirit of these texts, I conclude by praying, Lord, increase our faith, recollecting also as an incentive to labour, that "he died for all, that they who live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him who died for them and rose again."

CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT COMMISSIONERS.

On the 18th February, 1861, the House of Lords agreed to the following resolution:—

> "That an humble Address be presented to her Majesty, praying that she will be graciously pleased to direct an Inquiry to be made into the Employment of Children and Young Persons in Trades and Manufactures not regulated by Law."

With the prayer of this address her Majesty has complied, and Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners are appointed to conduct the inquiry, gather information, &c., &c.

A similar Commission was appointed in 1840, who presented their Report to Parliament in 1843. It is now wished to be ascertained whether the condition, physical and moral, of the children and young persons in the branches then inquired into, but not yet brought under legislative restrictions, remains as it was at that period of the inquiry; and if not, in what respects it has either improved or deteriorated. Within the same period new trades have come into existence, in which juvenile labour is largely employed; it is wished, also, that inquiry be made into those especially where the nature of the employment is more particularly obnoxious to health. The Commissioners, in their letter of instruction to the Assistant Commissioners, state that, "The great principle of submitting the labour of children and young persons to legislative restriction, where the circumstances of the case justify

and require it, has been shown, by extensive experience, to be perfectly compatible with successful prosecution of the largest industrial occupations of the kingdom, whilst it has greatly ameliorated the condition of the employed and promoted the general contentment of the people."

The Commissioners add: "That childhood is essentially the period of activity of the nutritive processes necessary to the growth and maturity of the body; that if at this period the kind and quantity of food necessary to afford the material for these processes be not supplied; if, instead of the pure air which is indispensable to convert the aliment into nutriment, the air which is constantly respired be loaded with noxious matters; if the comparatively tender and feeble frame be taxed by toil beyond its strength, and at unseasonable and unnatural periods; and if the day be consumed in labour, and no time during the twenty-four hours be allowed for healthful recreation; the organs will not be developed, their functions will be enfeebled and disordered, and the whole system will sustain an injury which cannot be repaired at any subsequent stage of human life; and, above all, that childhood is no less essentially the period of the development of the mental faculties, on the culture and direction of which, at this tender age, the intellectual, moral, and religious qualities and habits of the future being almost wholly depend."

The Commissioners do not intend to go so much into a searching investigation into the effects of early employment upon the child's education, as into the effects of that early employment upon the child's constitution and healthy development of the child's body. The former, however, will not be altogether overlooked. The following are among the chief points on which the Assistant Commissioners will seek full information:—

1. Number and ages of children and young persons employed?
   "Children" are those under 13 years of age.
   "Young persons," those between 13 and 18 years of age.
2. Number of hours daily given to work?
   Night-work, overtime, and occasional, to have special notice.
3. Meals—
   Time allowed—accommodation?
4. Nature of employment—
   If unfavourable to health, why?
   Effect on physical condition?
5. State of place of work—
   Healthy or otherwise?
   Ventilated or not?
   Drainage?
6. Accidents—
   How many each year for three years?
   Proportion to the number employed?
   Nature—cause?
7. Hours and wages—
   Whether by principal or deputy—and whether by parent or the child?

The foregoing is an outline of the objects of this new Commission. Among others, the Commissioners have applied to the Committee of the Ragged School Union to render aid, by indicating quarters where the gentlemen may

most successfully prosecute their inquiries. The Committee have requested their Secretary and School Agents to furnish what information they can, and the object of this notice is to give a wider scope to the Committee's request; that our friends in the country, as well as in London, may be aware of this movement, and to give them the opportunity of furnishing what information they can, not in detail, but simply *where* the details may be gathered by those who are employed for that special purpose. Such information will be gratefully received by the *Secretary* to the Commissioners, P. Selby, Esq., 2, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.

SHOE-BLACKS AT THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

At a conference of the managers of the various Shoe-black Societies, held shortly before the opening of the International Exhibition, it was resolved to act upon the permission granted by Sir Richard Mayne, and to occupy stations near the building. A new brigade was at once formed, composed of boys from most of the established Societies, and twelve boys went to work on the 29th of April, two from each of the following Societies:—The Central Society (or reds), the East London (blues), the North-west London (red and black), the Islington (brown), the West London (purples), and the Union Jack.

A temporary office has been opened near the Exhibition building, and an inspector appointed to have the oversight of the new brigade. The earnings are booked, and wages paid at the office, and the boxes and implements belonging to each Society are there kept; but the boys return in their uniforms to their own Societies, report themselves, and then go to their own homes. The earnings for the twelve boys have been about £6 a-week; but it is hoped that during the 1s. days of entrance, the stations will be more generally remunerative. The highest amount earned by one boy in a day was 9s. 6d., and the total sum earned on that day by the boys was £2 13s. 1d.

SCHOLARS' PRIZES.—CHRISTMAS, 1862.

The Committee of the Ragged School Union, being desirous to encourage industry and diligence in all who have passed through the schools in connection with them, have again decided on giving a prize to young persons who have kept their situations with good character for at least twelve months up to December 25th, 1862, and coming within the following conditions, viz.:—

1. The Candidates for these prizes must be over twelve and under seventeen years of age, and must have attended the Ragged School giving the recommendation at least six months previous to entering their first situation.

2. Those scholars who have remained in one place for twelve months, ending December 25th, 1862, and have not before received a money prize, will be entitled to a prize of seven shillings and sixpence, as well as a card, provided the Committee of the school recommending them will pay two shillings and sixpence of that sum. Scholars having kept their situations for twelve months, and left them before Christmas for others, and not more than two weeks out of place, shall be entitled to their prize, provided they are in the second place on December 25th, 1862.

3. That those scholars who have received a money prize previously, and are again recommended (in accordance with Rule 2) for further service to December 25th, 1862, will be entitled to a prize card.

4. That all candidates must have been regular in attendance at the Ragged or other Sunday School for the period for which they are recommended. This rule does not apply to those who are employed as domestic servants.

5. Apprentices, shoe-blacks, occasional labourers, and scholars employed by their relatives, as well as those earning more than ten shillings per week, will not be eligible for the prizes.

6. Certificates must be furnished by the employers and school authorities, to show that the previous conditions have been complied with, and that good conduct has been continued to December 25th, 1862.

The prizes may be given in books, clothes, or otherwise, as the Committee of the school may determine.

All applications for the prizes must be made by the Committee of the school to which the scholar belonged, and the forms, properly filled up, to be sent to Mr. Gent, 1, Exeter Hall, not later than the 16th of January, 1863.

Correspondence.

CHRISTIAN YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION AND RAGGED SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of the Ragged School Union Magazine.

SIR,—Although Lord Shaftesbury's address at the last Annual Meeting of the Ragged School Union, when he reviewed the last six years' progress, was justly jubilant in tone, I was sorry to observe one dark shadow in the background, namely, the decrease in the number of voluntary teachers. With this painful fact he connected another equally sad, for he intimated that many of the members of Christian Young Men's Associations were so absorbed by theological and other studies that they do not contribute their fair quota of workers to Sunday or Ragged Schools. As it is not usual for Lord Shaftesbury to make hap-hazard assertions, I presume that he had

some reason for making this painful statement. That, as regards ordinary Sunday-schools, the statement is well-grounded, there is little room for doubt; for, as those schools assemble in the afternoon, the very time selected by the managers of the Christian Young Men's Associations for holding their large Bible classes, it is obvious that a large number of young men are drawn away from active work in our afternoon Sunday-schools. Now, if all young Christians were to follow the course adopted by too many of their class, this form of ministry to the young would speedily cease, and over the grave of the great plan of Raikes for the evangelization of the masses might be inscribed this epitaph—Died of the *un*-natural death of Starvation!

It is painful to find any Christian signalizing the commencement of his religious career by taking in and not also giving out, and thus becoming a kind of spiritual miser. This course, it is scarcely needful to say, is in direct antagonism to the Master's command, "Occupy till I come"; do my work during my absence diligently and faithfully. Such religion, to say the least, is not of a healthy character; for when men care alone for their own progress in the Divine life, heedless of the spiritual wants of others, their religion becomes but another form of selfishness. In religion, as in all things, it has ever been found true, that "it *is* more blessed to give than to receive;" and hence, he who is anxious alone for his own salvation, and careless of the eternal fate of others, may find at the last that a sound creed with an un-Christlike life, carved but another road to the eternal pit. For the Judge from whom there is no appeal hath antedated the sentence of all idlers, "Cast ye the *unprofitable* servant into outer darkness."

But on the principle of rendering honour to those to whom honour is due, I would indicate one exception to Lord Shaftesbury's statement, namely, the Christian Young Men's Association meeting in Titchborne Street, Paddington. About four years ago some of its members established a Ragged School in Union Place, amid a dense population engaged in the dust-yards or in the canal traffic of that unsavoury district. For any lover of ease it would not have been a very inviting spot, but for those who accepted the Bible canon of work, namely, "Endure *hardness*, as good soldiers of Christ," it had potent attractions. The majority of this population, whether resident or floating—for it is as much the one as the other—are rough in manner, barbarous in dialect, and, being most improvident in habit, the bulk are either drunkards or gluttons. This was the spot selected by these young men for mission work, and refreshing proofs have been already vouchsafed that there is nothing like the Gospel for taming the wild human soul, and for conferring on the uncouth or depraved spiritual graces, which shall live for evermore.

I hope, however, now that Lord Shaftesbury has, prophet-like, called attention to the portentous "cloud, like a man's hand," rising over our workfield, that the Paddington Young Men's Association will cease to be the only one wherein the adjacent Ragged School is viewed as a direct branch of their labour, and as such, to be included in their Annual Report. For it will not do to say, as one recently said, "How can you expect —— to teach a Ragged School, when, as a member of a Christian Young Men's Association, what with the Bible-class, the subsequent tea-meeting, and prayer-meetings, his whole time is fully occupied on Sundays?" Far rather

would we affirm, that Bible-classes and prayer-meetings, which do not lead to more earnest work for Christ, savour more of the piety of Simeon Stylites, who thought he should be saved simply because he stood on a pillar high above the mob and prayed for thirty long years. No, that is true manly piety which so flavours prayer with work as to render work but another form of prayer. "I speak to you, young men, because ye are strong," and if you do not work for Christ now, how can ye expect to do so when the frost of age is on the forehead? Let then every member of our Christian Young Men's Associations find a stimulant to labour in Lord Shaftesbury's hints, and then they will find that so "faithful are the wounds of a friend," that he ought to be regarded as a deadly foe who, when he observes the seeds of a dry rot, does not at once point out where they are deposited. Now if this is done, and, as all right things ought to be done, at once, the next Annual Report of the Ragged School will not have to report again that the voluntary teachers have decreased 170 during the last twelve months; neither shall I have to record the painful fact that, in two out of four Sunday *afternoon* Ragged Schools recently visited, the superintendents had to take charge of large classes, because the staff of teachers was insufficient. Let us all, in our several spheres, imitate Him who willingly took off his eternal crown, as the highest proof he could give of his love for perishing men; and who now, as then, regards the sigh of the penitent as sweeter music than the songs of Gabriel. O, the grace whereby we are saved; but O, the grace which bids us aid our Saviour in filling heaven with redeemed souls!

Q IN THE CORNER.

Notices of Meetings.

PERKIN'S RENTS.

ON the 11th of June the Annual Meeting was held in the school-room, situated in Perkin's Rents, near Victoria Street, Westminster, for nearly two hundred years a thieves' public-house. The Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury took the chair.

The noble Chairman presented prizes of money and certificates of merit to eight boys and three girls, who had filled the situations procured for them satisfactorily to their employers. 10*s.* was awarded to those who had held the same place three years, 7*s.* 6*d.* to such as had continued in their employment two years, and 5*s.* for one year's uninterrupted service and good conduct. His lordship accompanied the award in each case with a few words of approbation and shake of the hand, which, to judge by the looks of the young candidates, was appreciated at its full value, and will doubtless serve as a future incentive to steadiness and good conduct. Even to an English boy, the clasp of an earl's hand possesses a wonderful charm, and is, perhaps, calculated to produce a more lasting impression, and certainly more salutary, than that of the handcuff.

The report was read, from which it appears that the institution comprises, besides the Ragged Schools (where 98 girls, 60 boys, and 48 infants are received daily), an Evening School for boys and girls in employment, Sunday Schools, a Mothers' Meeting, with 68 members; a Ragged Church; a Band of Hope, 220 members; a Working Men's Club and Reading Room; a Penny Bank; Clothing Fund; Lending Library; a Special and Destitute Fund. The instruction given to the children consists of reading, writing,

and arithmetic, with a portion of Scripture expounded; and to the girls a thorough knowledge of plain needlework. Periodical examinations are instituted, and prizes bestowed upon the deserving. Suitable situations are procured at a proper age; yet even then the institution does not lose sight of its children, as appears by the certificates and prizes distributed that evening; while the Evening School invites them to continue the improvement of their minds; and, above all, is the knowledge that some one is caring for, and anxious about, them. Thus, to these children, taken from the veriest scum of the population—these outcasts of society, so-called—there is afforded every chance of becoming decent and self-respecting men and women.

The Working Men's Club and Reading Room is in Duck Lane, Westminster, and was opened December 11th, 1860, by Miss Adeline Cooper, who originated the idea, intended as a counter-attraction to the one great stumbling-block in the way of her, and all philanthropic, plans, the too frequent public-house. Here are provided books, papers, magazines, for the amusement and instruction of the frequenters, good fires, clean and ample accommodation. Classes are held for reading, writing, and arithmetic, of which the men eagerly avail themselves. Singing Classes are also held. No alcoholic liquor is permitted on the premises, but coffee is provided at ½*d.* per cup, and other refreshments at cost price. And, crowning the whole—be the fact remembered—the club is managed by the men themselves; the presiding spirit, Miss Adeline Cooper, only acting as treasurer to their Penny Bank and Loan Society. In the whole time, eighteen months, since its first opening, the greatest order has prevailed, not a book or paper, nor even a pen, being mi-sed or ill-used; while the rooms themselves are in as good condition as when first opened. There are above 200 members. In connection with this excellent institution is a Penny Bank, also a Loan Society, for the members only. A Temperance Society has been in operation since January last; Open-air and other meetings have been held, and 135 pledges taken. The expenses of the whole have not exceeded £50 per annum, over and above the ½*d.* per week paid by each member. The Mothers' Meetings are held at stated times, in the school-room, when they are addressed by Miss Cooper; or rather, it may be said, that lady enters into consultation with them, advising, assisting, and instructing in such matters as fall within the domestic province. The report concluded with an earnest expression of thankfulness for past success, and hopefulness in the future.

The meeting was addressed by the noble Chairman, Joseph Payne, Esq., Rev. B. Price, Rev. J. Rogers, Mr. Hytche, and other gentlemen. Mrs. Bessie Inglis spoke a few encouraging and impressive words. The women she exhorted to do all in their power to keep pace with their husbands in mental improvement. It was to be feared that while the men were reading and gathering information and enlightenment at their clubs, they grew in advance of their helpmates, and hence much mental inequality, which sometimes, she feared, had weakened the sanctity of conjugal ties. She called upon the men, as far as lay in their power, to remedy this difficulty by carrying home some of the fruits of their learning. While the button or string was being sown on, and the hose darned, the book or paper might be read, the lecture repeated, and the lesson endeared by mutual love and progress. The boys and girls Mrs. Inglis bade remember that each had something to do in the world: first, be as good as you can, then strive to be as clever as you can. Many a Lord Mayor has got his first lesson in a Sunday School. Finally, she recommended to them the advice of the little Quaker girl who, in the meeting-house one day, broke the long silence by saying, "Friends, let us get better and better every day, till all the bad is gone away." That was indeed to be desired; and if every day saw an improvement, at least much of the bad would be "gone away."

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Everett, Mr.	0	10	0
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ERRATA.—In last month's Magazine General Fund, Sir H. Martin £1 should have been Excursion Fund, Sir H. Martin, £3; John Maidlow, Esq., £3, should have been £1.

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